

# The Galway Lion

Members' Bulletin October 2014

Editor: Tom Hogan.

Publishing and Circulation: Pat Dempsey

## Editorial:

*O hushed October morning mild,  
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;  
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,  
Should waste them all.  
The crows above the forest call;  
Tomorrow they may form and go.  
O hushed October morning mild,  
Begin the hours of this day slow.  
Make the day to seem to us less brief.  
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,  
Beguile us in the way you know.  
Release one leaf at break of day;  
At noon release another leaf;  
One from our trees, one far away.  
Retard the sun with gentle mist;  
Enchant the land with amethyst.  
Slow, slow !  
For the grapes' sake, if they were all,  
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,  
Whose clustered fruit must yet be lost –  
For the grapes' sake along the wall.*

*October, Robert Frost 1874-1963.*

With the coming of October, an autumnal chill has come in the air and our good summer has at last come to an end. It is also a time when much of the detailed planning for the major projects coming up over the coming months gets underway and no doubt we will have progress reports from Project Chairs at the October meeting.

## September Meeting:

There was a “back from the holidays” feel about this meeting, as we gathered in a smaller than usual meeting room. Just as well that the attendance was about 30, as if there were more, it would have been standing room only!

President Eimear got the meeting underway at 8.40, and informed us of her attendance at Charter President Bernie Murphy's funeral, before asking Jim Kent to speak about Bernie, whom he knew. Jim paid tribute to Bernie as a warm, larger than life, Cork born surgeon with a great zest for life. We then stood for a minute's silence in his memory. May he rest in peace.

Treasurer Kevin Watters presented the financial report which showed the Club in a healthy position as we start our busy activities over the next few months. Kevin also circulated a draft budget for the year which estimates our income at €69,000 and expenditure of €72,000. This is not a bad position given that we have a good buffer zone.

President Eimear circulated the new Club Directory which notes 27 different activities or projects. It looks like a busy year ahead.

### **Alcohol Awareness:**

Project Chair, Jim Kent informed us that this is the most important time of the year for this project with the need to get in contact with the various schools before the curriculum timetable is finalised. He is hopeful of having 10 Galway City schools involved as well as schools in Kinvara, Loughrea and Strokestown. We look forward to progress reports from Jim and his committee on this excellent project.

### **Radio Auction:**

This has been our biggest annual fund raising project for some years and the new Project Chair, Tom Murphy is already on the ball. A meeting with Keith Finnegan of Galway Bay FM is imminent and the committee is having its first meeting this week. Tom said that every Club member will have an opportunity to be involved in this project. So if you get a call from Tom, make sure you respond in a positive manner.

### **Food Vouchers:**

Project Chair Ger Hosty reminded members that we have already decided that these be hand delivered this year, following the experiment last year which showed that we got a better picture of the recipients and that vouchers which may have gone astray in the past were now returned for redistribution. Ger hopes to have lists of recipients compiled by late November so that deliveries can commence in early December.

### **P.R.:**

Seamus Mannion reported that he had issued a Press Release on the Jack Kavanagh Presentation (Published in the City Tribune) and would be issuing others as events happened. Photographs of recent events have also been posted on our Website and on Facebook.

### **Kilcornan Clarenbridge Respite Facility:**

Following the presentation given at the July meeting, Tom Joyce and Tom Murphy visited Clarenbridge on three occasions to assess the amount of work involved in restoring one of the bungalows to a habitable condition. Following agreement with President Eimear, they arranged deep cleaning of the bungalow in question and it is now ready for painting. The Club endorsed the project and names of volunteers were collected. It is hoped to get the project underway immediately. I hear on the grapevine that work has been progressing and that many of the members of Galway Lions Club

may have been hiding their talents !! We look forward to the formal update on progress at our October meeting.

### **Carers Weekend:**

Project Chair Yvonne Thornton indicated that there will be a carers weekend taking place before the end of November. Various options are being explored including the possible use of Kilcornan.

Yvonne also reported on recent correspondence received from District level about Trabolgan and its future utilisation by the Lions Clubs. This has been a long running signature project for Lions Clubs in District 105I , originally in Mosney and in later years in Trabolgan. The target number of attendees is 700 but the attendance has been in decline. There were 664 attendees in 2011 but only 530 in 2014. The District want commitments from clubs by 10 October as the matter is to be discussed and decided on at the next cabinet meeting. Galway Lions Club are committed to continuing to support the project (if viable) and will encourage other clubs in our zone to support it too. Zone Chairman Kevin Watters undertook to do this.

*The best preparation for good work tomorrow is to do good work today.*

*Elbert Hubbard, 1856 - 1915*

### **Other Matters:**

Eamon Howley reported that Galway Womens' Football Club have recently nominated Galway Lions Club as their charity of choice for the coming year. He will explore how this will benefit the club.

Des Conway advised that he is relinquishing the Chair of the Connolly Conway Cups Members Golf Competition and handing over to Pat Connolly and his committee.

Tom O'Connor sought and obtained volunteers to assist with the Samaritans church gate collection on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

He also obtained approval to provide a holiday to a family well known to the club, who have experienced huge health and other problems.

Tom was also complimented on his clean up of the Lions Welcome signs on the approach roads to Galway. These signs were put in place in 1992 and in the early hours of a recent summer morning, Tom took bucket and mops in hand and gave them a good scrub. Well done Tom.

**Thunderous Applause, Thunderous Applause, Thunderous Applause.**

## **Sympathy:**

Our sympathy is extended to Past President Colm Feeney on death of his sister Jacinta Feeney-Lenehan. May she rest in peace.

**Next Meeting: Monday 13 October 2014.**

**Venue: Ardilaun Hotel**

**Directors: 8.00 p.m.**

**All Lions: 8.30 p.m.**

**N.B. District Governor Pat O'Brien will be in attendance at our October meeting.**

Website links:

Galway Lions Club Website: [www.galwaylionsclub.ie](http://www.galwaylionsclub.ie)

Lions District 105I Website (Ireland): [www.lionsclubs.ie](http://www.lionsclubs.ie)

Lions International Website (World): [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)

## **Presentations at September Meeting:**



Left: President Eimear presents Ger Hosty with his 10 year membership chevron.

Right: President Eimear presents a bottle of wine to Jim Kent, an addition to his cash prize after he predicted the winner of the recent World Cup.